

CALIFORNIA' S
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PERSONNEL PROGRAMS



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CALIFORNIA'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL PROGRAMS

Prepared by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority

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www.emsa.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA'S EMS PERSONNEL PROGRAMS

Thank you for expressing an interest in California's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel programs. We hope this will be of assistance to you and will answer the most commonly asked questions concerning California's Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and certification requirements. Additional information may be found on our website at www.emsa.ca.gov

ABOUT THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

The California Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority is the department within California state government that is empowered to develop and implement regulations governing the medical training and scope of practice standards for the following emergency medical care personnel:

- Emergency Medical Technician-I (EMT-I or EMT-Basic)
- Emergency Medical Technician-II (EMT-II or EMT-Intermediate)
- Paramedic
- Public Safety Personnel:
 - Firefighters
 - Peace Officers
 - Lifeguards
- Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN)

Additionally, the EMS Authority operates California's paramedic licensure program. This program coordinates with the National Registry of EMTs to administer written and skills exams to all initial applicants for paramedic licensure in California, and also issues licenses to all qualified initial and renewal paramedic applicants.

LOCAL EMS AGENCIES

Actual day-to-day EMS system operations are the responsibility of the local EMS agencies. EMS systems are administered by either county or multi-county EMS agencies, which follow regulations and standards established by the State EMS Authority. Local EMS agencies are responsible for certifying EMT-I's and II's (however, EMTs employed by public safety agencies, such as fire departments and law enforcement agencies, may be certified by their

departments—certification is valid statewide). Local EMS agencies' certification and accreditation requirements are explained on the following pages. A list of local EMS agencies is provided on Pages 7, 8 and 9. You will note that the list identifies the level of EMS service (EMT-I, II, or Paramedic) used in each county or region.

CALIFORNIA EMS PERSONNEL

In California, public safety personnel (firefighters, peace officers, and lifeguards) often administer prehospital medical assistance. These professionals are required by law to be trained, at a minimum, in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

An emergency medical technician, or EMT, as part of an EMS system, is a specially-trained and certified or licensed professional who renders immediate medical care in the prehospital setting to seriously ill or injured individuals. California has three levels of EMTs: EMT-I (or Basic), EMT-II (or Intermediate), and Paramedic. The following chart provides further information regarding the substantive differences between each of the three EMT categories. However, keep in mind the chart only summarizes the qualifications and requirements for each category.

**MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY, TRAINING AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS FOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) AND PARAMEDIC CATEGORIES
IN CALIFORNIA**

	EMT-I (EMT- Basic) (basic life support)	EMT-II (EMT-Intermediate) (limited advanced life support)	PARAMEDIC (advanced life support)
Student Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age High school diploma or equivalent EMT-I certificate One year experience as an EMT-I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age High school diploma or equivalent EMT-I certificate
Minimum Training Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 114 hours total ~104 hours didactic ~10 hours clinical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 306 hours total ~210 hours didactic & skills lab ~96 hours hospital clinical training & field internship to include 20 ALS patient contacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1032 hours total ~320 hours didactic & skills lab ~160 hours hospital clinical training ~480 hours field internship to include 40 ALS patient contacts ~72 hours pgm. choice
Minimum Scope of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient assessment Advanced first aid Use of adjunctive breathing aid & administration of oxygen Automated External Defibrillator Cardiopulmonary resuscitation Transportation of ill & injured persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All EMT-I skills EKG monitoring Defibrillation & Cardioversion Antishock trousers Intravenous infusion Esophageal airway Obtain venous blood 9 medications (scope of practice varies by area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All EMT-I and IIs skills and medications Laryngoscope Endotracheal (ET) intubation (adults, oral) Glucose measuring Valsalva's Maneuver Needle thoracostomy and cricothyroidotomy Nasogastric intubation (adult) 21 medications
Notable Optional Skills (added at the local level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual Defibrillation Endotracheal (ET) intubation Esophageal-tracheal airway device (combitube) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endotracheal (ET) intubation Laryngoscope Gastric suction additional medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local EMS Agencies may add additional skills and medications if approved by the EMS Authority
Written and Skills Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by training program or local EMS agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by training program or local EMS agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by the National Registry of EMTs
Length of Certification or Licensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 year certification with retesting every 4 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 year certification with retesting every 2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 year licensure without retesting
Refresher Course/ Continuing Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 hour refresher course or 24 hours of CE every two years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 hours of CE every 2 years & 6 field care audits per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 hours of CE every 2 years
Certification & License Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified locally/valid statewide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified locally/valid only where certified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed by State/valid statewide; local accreditation

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-I

(EMT-Basic)

California law requires all ambulance attendants to be trained to the EMT-I level and many fire agencies require firefighters to be EMT-I trained. EMT-Is are often used as the first dispatched medical responder in a tiered emergency medical system.

Training

Training for EMT-Is is offered at the local level by approved training programs. A list of approved training programs may be obtained through the EMS Authority via telephone, mail, or from our web page. Training hours consist of 110 hours, broken down into 100 classroom and laboratory hours and 10 hours of supervised clinical experience.

Testing

In order to practice as an EMT-I, an individual is certified by passing an approved written and skills exams. The certification exam is administered by an approved training program or by the local EMS agency. Some California counties now use the National Registry EMT-Basic exam.

Certification

After passing the written and skills exams, an applicant may be certified through the local EMS agency or through a public safety agency, both of which issue an EMT-I certification card. (They are also known as the certifying authority.) Certification is valid for two years from the date of issue and is recognized statewide.

Recertification

Every two years, an EMT-I must provide the certifying authority with proof of 24 hours of refresher course work or 24 hours of approved continuing education units (CEUs), and every four years must pass written and skills exam. Proof of completion of these requirements allows the certifying authority to recertify an EMT-I.

Reciprocity

Individuals from out-of-state who meet the following criteria and complete the application requirements of a local EMS agency are eligible for certification: (1) Possess or have possessed in the last 4 years a valid out-of-state EMT-Basic or National Registry EMT-Basic certificate, (2) possess or have possessed a valid out-of-state or National Registry EMT-Intermediate certificate or paramedic license, or (3) have documentation of successful completion of an out-of-state EMT-Basic training course within the last 2 years that meets California's EMT-I training requirements.

Scope of Practice

An EMT-I is trained and certified in basic life support practices. Basic life support (BLS) means emergency first aid and CPR procedures which, at a minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of CPR to maintain life without invasive techniques until the patient can be transported or until advanced life support (ALS) is available. Automated external defibrillator (AED) training is now part of the basic scope of practice.

Optional Skills

EMT-Is may obtain additional training to supplement their standard scope of practice. EMT-Is may become locally approved to use a manual defibrillator or an esophageal-tracheal airway device (combitube), and practice endotracheal intubation (ET Intubation). The local EMS medical director for each county determines the use of these skills.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-II (EMT-Intermediate)

An EMT-II is trained and certified in limited advanced life support (LALS) practices. In rural or sparsely populated areas of California, EMT-IIs may be the only responders who provide immediate medical intervention. Some local EMS agencies are phasing out EMT-II programs in favor of upgrading to paramedic programs. Note: California now has fewer than 200 EMT-IIs; contact the county you are interested in to determine if they use EMT-IIs, or refer to the attached list on pages 7, 8, & 9.

Training

Training programs for EMT-IIs are limited, because EMT-IIs are not utilized throughout California. To learn which counties use EMT-IIs refer to pages 7, 8 and 9. The minimum training hours for EMT-IIs is 306. The minimum number of hours for each portion of the training program is listed below, although most programs exceed this amount:

Didactic and skills	210 hours
Clinical and field/ Internship	<u>96 hours</u>
TOTAL	<u>306 hours</u>

Testing

To become certified as an EMT-II, an individual must pass written and skills exams administered by the local EMS agency. Local EMS agencies determine if the testing will be administered by the training facility or the local EMS agency.

Certification

After passing both the written and skills exams, an applicant may be certified through the local EMS agency by issuance of an EMT-II identification card. Certification is valid for two years from the date of issue. A small number of EMS agencies recognize EMT-IIs in their jurisdiction. Certification of EMT-IIs is recognized only by the issuing local EMS agency. Therefore, EMT-II certification is not valid statewide. In order to be certified in a different area by a different EMS agency, an applicant must provide proof of current EMT-II certification and employment with a provider in the new area, pass that agency's skills and written exams, and complete field orientation.

After successfully completing these steps, an applicant may then be certified by the new local EMS agency. Be sure to contact the local EMS agency to confirm the feasibility of practicing as an EMT-II in that agency's area of jurisdiction.

Recertification

Every 2 years, an EMT-II must provide the local EMS agency with proof of completion of 48 hours of approved continuing education units (CEUs), 6 field care audits per year, and pass written and skills exams administered by the original certifying EMS agency.

Reciprocity

An individual who possesses or has possessed a valid EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic license from another state may be eligible for certification when the individual has proof of training required for California EMT-IIs, has passed written and skills exams, and has successfully completed any additional training for any expanded scope of practice. In addition, Nationally Registered EMT-Intermediates may be eligible for California certification upon successful completion of a certifying county's written and skills exams. Again, please contact the local EMS agency in question, because EMT-II requirements vary from county to county.

Scope of Practice

EMT-IIs are certified in the use of limited advanced life support (LALS) skills. LALS includes all EMT-I skills, EKG monitoring, defibrillation/cardioversion, antishock trousers, intravenous infusion, esophageal airway, and 9 medications (jurisdictional scope of practice may vary).

Optional Skills

In addition to the set LALS scope of practice, EMT-IIs can become certified to practice the following skills: endotracheal (ET) intubation, use of laryngoscope, gastric infusion, and the administration of additional medications. Additional optional skills and medications may be utilized in a particular jurisdiction upon approval by the EMS authority.

PARAMEDIC

(EMT-Paramedic)

A paramedic is trained and licensed in advanced life support (ALS) practices, which include the use of expanded skills and medications. The paramedic is typically employed by public safety agencies, such as fire departments, and by private ambulance companies. Paramedics are employed throughout the state's EMS system to provide ALS prehospital care.

Training

The minimum number of hours for each portion of the training program is listed below, although most programs exceed these amounts:

Didactic and skills	320 hours
Hospital and clinical training	160 hours
Field internship with 40 ALS patient contacts	480 hours
Program choice	<u>72 hours</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,032</u>

Testing

In order to practice as a paramedic, an individual must pass the National Registry of EMTs' written and skills exams. Tests are given on a regular basis throughout California; contact the EMS Authority or look on our web site to obtain a California test schedule.

Licensure

California law requires an individual to be licensed by the EMS Authority in order to practice as a paramedic. Licensure is valid statewide. Individuals seeking licensure should apply directly to the EMS Authority. Note: All licensees must undergo a California background check and submit proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency..

Accreditation

In addition to State licensure, a paramedic must be locally accredited in order to practice in any California county. Accreditation is orientation to local protocols and training in any local optional scope of practice for the particular local EMS

agency jurisdiction. Paramedics must apply for accreditation directly to the local EMS agency.

License Renewal

Paramedics must complete a minimum of 48 hours of approved continuing education units (CEUs) every two years to maintain licensure.

Reciprocity

Individuals who possess a current paramedic certificate/license from another state, territory, or country, or from the National Registry of EMTs, are eligible for paramedic licensure in California when they submit documented proof of successful completion of the training required in California for paramedics, successfully pass the National Registry written and skills exam, and complete all license requirements. If an individual does not have the minimum number of training hours required by California, then enrollment in a paramedic training program may be required to obtain the additional hours.

Scope of Practice

Paramedics are trained and licensed in the use of advanced life support (ALS) skills. ALS includes all EMT-I and EMT-II skills, use of laryngoscope, endotracheal and nasogastric intubation, Valsalva's Maneuver, needle thoracostomy, administration of 21 drugs, and other skills listed on page 2.

Optional Skills

The EMS Authority can approve the use of additional skills and administration of additional medications by paramedics upon the request of a local EMS medical director.

MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN)

Some local EMS agencies also certify Mobile Intensive Care Nurses. Since a State standard for training and scope of practice for this classification has not been established, information concerning this category of prehospital care personnel should be directed to the respective local EMS agency.

PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

(This includes firefighters, peace officers, and lifeguards.)

Minimum training standards are 15 hours of first aid and 6 hours of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Training and certification questions should be addressed to the local EMS agencies. In addition to first aid and CPR, public safety personnel may also perform the optional skill of defibrillation when approved by the local EMS medical director for the jurisdiction in which the public safety personnel practice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is recommended that once an individual has decided where in California he/she wants to work, the individual should contact the local EMS agency in that area to request further information regarding any additional requirements for training, exams, certification, licensing, and accreditation, as well as to obtain information on employment opportunities.

LOCAL EMS AGENCY LISTING

MULTI-COUNTY EMS SYSTEMS

(Refer to map on last page for county locations)

Fresno, Kings, Madera Counties

(EMT-I, Paramedic)

P.O. Box 11867

Fresno, CA 93775

(559) 445-3387

E-Mail: fkmems@fresno.ca.gov

Mountain-Valley (EMT-I, Paramedic)

(Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Stanislaus Counties)

1101 Standiford Avenue, #D1

Modesto, CA 95350

(209) 529-5085

E-Mail: ANDRIESEMS@aol.com

North Coast (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)

(Del Norte, Humboldt, and Lake Counties)

86 E Street

Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 445-2081

E-Mail: coord@northcoast.com

execdir@northcoast.com

Northern California (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)

(Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties)

970 Executive Way

Redding, CA 96002

(530) 221-7900

Harold Renollet, M.D., Medical Director

8639 Olivewood court

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Inland Counties EMS Agency

(EMT-I, Paramedic)

(San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties)

164 West Hospitality Lane, Ste. 4A

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0060

(909) 888-7511

Sierra-Sacramento Valley

(EMT-I, Paramedic)

(Nevada, Placer, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties)

3853 Taylor Road, Suite G

Loomis, CA 95650

(916) 652-3690

E-Mail: S-SVAGENCY@aol.com

Coastal Valleys EMS

(EMT-I, II, Paramedic)

Sonoma County

3273 Airway Drive, Suite E

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

(707) 525-6501 (Sonoma)

(707) 259-8694 (Napa)

E-Mail: blee1@sonoma-county.org

Mendocino County

890 North Bush Street

Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 463-4590

Napa County

1721 First Street

Napa, CA 94559

(707) 253-4345

Note: this list is updated periodically. If you reach an expired phone number, call the EMS Authority at (916) 322-4336 for the correct number.

SINGLE COUNTY EMS SYSTEMS

Alameda County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

1000 Broadway, Suite 5024
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 628-5060
E-Mail: EMSMED2@aol.com
E-Mail: mharris@ph.mail.co.alameda.ca.us

Contra Costa County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

50 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 646-4690
E-Mail: ccc.emed@hwl.cabwnet.gov

El Dorado County (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)

415 Placerville Drive, Suite J
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-6500/Fax (530) 621-2758

Imperial County (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)

935 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 339-4468

Kern County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

1400 H Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(805) 861-3200
E-Mail: ems@lightspeed.net

Los Angeles County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

5555 Ferguson Drive, Suite, 220
Commerce, CA 90022
(323) 890-7500
E-Mail: vhastings@dhs.co.la.ca.us

Marin County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

20 North San Pedro Road, Suite 2002
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 449-6871

Merced County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

410 West Main Street, Suite E
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 725-3537
E-Mail: DAVEK8383@aol.com

Monterey County

(EMT-I, Paramedic, 1st Responder)

19065 Portola Drive, Suite I
Salinas, CA 93908
(408) 755-5013 or (408) 647-7655
E-Mail: mntrycoems@aol.com

Orange County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

405 West Fifth Street, Suite 301A
Santa Ana, CA 92701
P.O. Box 355
Santa Ana, CA 92702
(714) 834-3500
E-Mail: Inakayama@hca.co.orange.ca.us

Riverside County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

P.O. Box 7600
Riverside, CA 92513-7600
(909) 358-5029
E-Mail: MOSUR@aol.com
HAS.HEALTH-
I.MOSUR@CO.RIVERSIDE.CA.US

Sacramento County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

9616 Micron Avenue, Suite 635
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 875-9753
E-Mail: scemsa@sna.com

San Benito County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

P.O. Box 700
Hollister, CA 95023
451 Fourth Street
Hollister, CA 95023
(408) 636-4086

San Diego County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

6255 Mission Gorge Road
San Diego, CA 92120
(619) 285-6429
E-Mail: gcoopehe@co.san-diego.ca.us
:melochs@aol.com

San Francisco County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

1540 Market Street, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-9963

San Joaquin County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

P.O. Box 1020
Stockton, CA 95201
(209) 468-6818

SINGLE COUNTY EMS SYSTEMS

San Luis Obispo County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

712 Fiero Lane #29
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 546-8728
E-Mail: SLOEMSA@FIX.NET

San Mateo County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

225 West 37th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 573-2564
E-Mail: bpletz@mail.co.sanmateo.ca.us

Santa Barbara County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

300 North San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1316
(805) 681-5274

Santa Clara County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

645 South Bascom Room 139
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 885-4250

Santa Cruz County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

1080 Emeline Avenue
P.O. Box 962
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(408) 454-4120 Fax (408) 454-4488

Solano County (EMT-I, II)

1735 Enterprise Dr. Bldg., MS3-110
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 421-6685

Tulare County (EMT-I, II)

5957 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277
(209) 737-4660 ext. 2311

Tuolumne County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

20111 Cedar Road North
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-7405

Ventura County (EMT-I, Paramedic)

2323 Knoll Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 677-5270
E-Mail:
Barbara.Brodfuehrer@mail.co.ventura.ca.us